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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [JO](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN VIEWS ON THE OSCE AND ITS MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

Classified By: DCM David Hale for reason 1.5 (d)

[1](#)1. SUMMARY: In a bilateral meeting at the October 20-21 Aqaba OSCE seminar, U.S. and Jordanian officials discussed the Jordanian vision for the OSCE's six Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. While upbeat on OSCE principles and the partners, continued participation with the OSCE, the Jordanians were quick to point out the need for progress on the Middle East peace process first. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (U) Then Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shafer Bak, Jordanian Ambassador to Austria Muhyieddeen Touq, USOSCE Ambassador Stephan Minikes and USOSCE and Embassy Amman poloffs met October 20 on the margins of the Aqaba OSCE Mediterranean Seminar. Minister Bak, who (before the recent government change) handled foreign policy issues and projects as designated by FM Muasher, was the ranking Jordanian delegation member. Algeria, Israel, and Morocco were represented at the Seminar by their Vienna-resident ambassadors, and Egypt sent an MFA representative. The substance of the seminar will be reported septel by USOSCE.

[1](#)3. (C) According to Bak, Jordan would "love to see a Helsinki-like process" for the region. In order to be meaningful, a Helsinki Accord-type document for the Middle East would need to include all the countries of the region, including Turkey and Iran, and would require the U.S. and Western Europe to act as parties or partners to the agreement. Despite the low level of participation from Mediterranean partner states, he was pleased to have an Arab League observer in attendance. He stated that Jordan's decision to host the seminar was a gesture meant to maintain momentum in the OSCE-partner relationship and among the partners themselves, but Bak believed that it accomplished less than if the U.S. or the U.N. had called a similar meeting.

[1](#)3. (C) Amb. Touq assessed four of the five Mediterranean partners (not including Algeria, though he thought they could be easily convinced to do so) as willing to sign a Helsinki Accord-like document. He stated that the parallel idea of elevating the Mediterranean partners, status within the OSCE was gaining consensus. He mentioned that the partners were close to agreement on establishing a regional conflict prevention center, modeled on OSCE efforts, and that both the partners, and the OSCE's participation would be needed to do so.

[1](#)4. (C) Bak mentioned repeatedly that the current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict precludes advancement of an OSCE-based agenda in the region. He expressed the view that the past possibility of seeing Middle Eastern states sign a Helsinki Accord-like document was now only a dream. Consequently, those states which do not have peace treaties with Israel cannot be expected to cooperate with Israel under present circumstances, he said, until there is political progress in ending the violence and resuming peace talks.

[1](#)5. (U) This message was coordinated with USOSCE.
GNEHM